



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**


# Advisory Circular

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**Subject:** EMERGENCY EXITS OPENABLE FROM OUTSIDE FOR SMALL AIRPLANES      **Date:** January 20, 1984      **AC No:** 23.807-3  
**Initiated by:** ACE-100      **Change:**

1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular provides information and guidance concerning external markings and identification of emergency exits which are openable from the outside of small airplanes.
  2. RELATED FAR SECTIONS. Sections **25.811(f)** and **121.310(g)**.
  3. BACKGROUND. There have been accidents where rescuers had difficulty locating emergency exits from the outside of the passenger compartment of small airplanes. Parts **25, 29** and **121** of the FAR require that the emergency exits openable from the outside of the aircraft and the means of operating these exits must be marked on the outside of the aircraft. There are no similar requirements in Parts **23, 27, 91, 127** or **135**. Exemptions have been granted for some transport helicopters to outline the emergency exit handle instead of outlining the door. The National Transportation Safety Board has recommended that these conspicuous markings be made mandatory for all small airplanes regardless of the rules under which the airplanes were certified or are being operated. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) agrees with the intent of this recommendation but does not agree that the markings be made mandatory.
  4. APPLICATION. This guidance material is applicable for all small airplanes with emergency exits openable from outside the airplane.
  5. RECOMMENDATION. For its potential contribution to safety', the **FAA** recommends that all manufacturers, operators, and owners of small airplanes, with emergency exits openable from the outside of the airplane, add external markings to these exits. This may be accomplished as follows:
    - a. Identify the exit with one of the following:
      - (1) Outline the emergency exit with a band of such color contrast as to be readily distinguishable from the surrounding fuselage surface.
      - (2) Mark the corners of the emergency exit in a conspicuous manner.
      - (3) Outline the emergency exit handle with a band of contrasting color.
      - (4) Mark the emergency exit with any other conspicuous visual **identificat:** scheme.
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b. Install a decal on the outside of the emergency exit or on the outside of the airplane adjacent to the exit which shows the means of opening the emergency exit, including special instructions if applicable. (Note: These markings and decals are considered to be minor alterations as defined in Part 43.)

  
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